

**National EPA-Tribal Science Council (TSC)
Conference Call Roll Call and Key Discussion Points
Monday, May 20, 2019
2:00 – 3:30 p.m. EDT**

Roll Call

Tribal Caucus

- ☒ Region 1: William (Billy) Longfellow
(Passamaquoddy at Sipayik)
- ☐ Region 1 *Alternate*: Trevor White
(Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indian Township)
- ☐ Region 2: Neil Patterson (Tuscarora Nation)
- ☒ Region 4: Katie Tiger (Eastern Band of
Cherokee Indians)
- ☐ Region 5: Jeffrey Mears (Oneida Nation), Chair
- ☒ Region 6: Craig Kremen (Quapaw Tribe)
- ☐ Region 6 *Alternate*: TBD
- ☐ Region 7: Page Hingst (Santee Sioux Nation of
Nebraska)
- ☒ Region 7 *Alternate*: Misha Mazurkewycz (Ponca
Tribe of Nebraska)
- ☒ Region 8: Joshua Tweeton (Spirit Lake Tribe)
- ☐ Region 8 *Alternate*: Allyson Two Bears
(Standing Rock Sioux Tribe)
- ☒ Region 9: Carlotta (Carley) Whitecrane (Karuk
Tribe)
- ☐ Region 9 *Alternate*: TBD
- ☐ Region 10: Lee Juan Tyler (Shoshone-Bannock
Tribes)
- ☐ Region 10 *Alternate*: Kelly Wright (Shoshone-
Bannock Tribes)
- ☐ Region 10 (Alaska): Orville Huntington
(Tanana Chiefs Conference)

Support Personnel

- ☒ Monica Rodia, TSC Executive Secretary
- ☒ Kristen LeBaron, Contract Support

Action Items

1. TSC members will identify tribal air projects for the TSC to consider and provide them to José Zambrana.
2. Carley Whitecrane will identify solid waste and emergency traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) strategies and case studies and provide them to José.
3. Monica Rodia will send the link to access Blase Leven's presentation to the TSC members.
4. Craig Kremen agreed to send the State-of-the-Air Report to the TSC members

EPA Caucus

- ☐ Region 1: TBD
- ☒ Region 2: Kai Tang
- ☐ Region 3: Regina Poeske
- ☐ Region 4: Dawn Taylor
- ☒ Region 5: Luke Hullinger
- ☐ Region 5 *Alternate*: Carole Braverman
- ☒ Region 6: Alexandra (Alexa) Olson
- ☐ Region 7: Amy Shields
- ☒ Region 7 *Alternate*: Amber Tilley
- ☐ Region 8: Alfred Basile
- ☒ Region 9: Rebecca Jamison
- ☒ Region 10: Lon Kissinger
- ☒ AIEO: Francine St. Denis
- ☒ OAR: Amanda Kaufman
- ☐ OCHP: Ted Coopwood
- ☐ OCSPP: Karen Hamernik
- ☐ OCSPP *Alternate*: Amanda Hauff
- ☒ OLEM: David Charters
- ☒ OMS: Beth Jackson
- ☐ ORD: David Jewett
- ☒ ORD: José Zambrana, Chair
- ☒ OW: Karen Gude

Invited Speaker

- ☒ Blase Leven, Kansas State University

Key Discussion Points

Roll Call and Distribution of Meeting Minutes

- Monica took the roll of teleconference participants and explained that the April 2019 monthly call summary had been finalized and distributed to the members. She urged members to read the minutes each month to ensure that they are aware of TSC activities and action items.

EPA Caucus Report Out

- José explained that the EPA Caucus had met the previous week and discussed the Strategic Research Action Plan (StRAP) engagement process and the updated lead curriculum. The TSC is helping the National Tribal Toxics Council to assess how tribes can best engage with EPA on the new high- and low-risk chemical assessments under the Toxic Substance Control Act. He also asked TSC members to identify potential air projects for the TSC to consider and possibly elevate to EPA's Air and Energy Research Program. José traveled last week with Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science for EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD), who also attended the April 2019 National Tribal Operations Committee Meeting. She is interested in attending a TSC face-to-face meeting. José spoke about the TSC to ORD's Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Management and Deputy Assistant Administrator for Research and Development, and they also expressed interest in the TSC's work.

TSC Science Webinar: A Research-to-Action Opportunity: The EPA Tribal Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Program, Blasé Leven, Director, Kansas State University (KSU) TAB Program and Center for Hazardous Substance Research

- The TAB Program, funded by EPA through a grant to KSU, provides free assistance for environmental and economic planning and development. The program is coordinated through the Tribal Response Program (TRP)–Brownfields coordinator.
- One-on-one TAB assistance includes help with contracting, finding and evaluating environmental consultants; review of site project plans, Quality Assistance Project Plans and technical reports; review of 104(k) Brownfields Competitive Grant applications; online tools, such as the Tribal Brownfields Forum (www.tribalbrownfields.org), Brownfields Inventory Tool (BiT) and TAB EZ grant-writing tool; and other assistance as needed. Assistance to tribes includes training sessions at workshops and roundtables, conferences, Regional Tribal Operations Committee meetings, and local tribal meetings, as well as the assignment of tribal mentors.
- Assistance and training topics are numerous and include establishing and enhancing a 128(a) TRP, tribal civil enforcement of solid and hazardous waste codes, environmental cleanup and damage assessment, use of drones, and oil and gas field releases and issues.
- Blase displayed screenshots of the Tribal Brownfields Forum, a tribal environmental professional networking platform, and described the BiT, an online data management tool to store, manage and track site information, such as site survey and inventory, photographs and related documents, activity logs, sampling data, and maps. Data stored on BiT are not publicly available. BiT can be accessed online through a traditional computer or either online or offline through a smartphone via the BiT app. Blase displayed screenshots of the BiT app and website. Blase also demonstrated how BiT can be integrated with Google's My Maps. GIS data can be exported from and imported into BiT using Microsoft Excel spreadsheets.

- Drones provide aerial imagery in support of surveying potential brownfield sites, monitoring known brownfield sites, estimating waste area and volume, visualizing the effects of releases, mapping brownfield sites, and performing phase I and II assessments. Blase provided examples of tribal use of drones, including obtaining before and after photographs of stream restoration projects, monitoring invasive species and documenting control efforts, estimating wildlife, and monitoring wetlands. Drone imagery can be integrated into Google's Earth Pro for a more comprehensive program.
- Blase invited the TSC to collaborate through co-presenting at workshops and webinars, participating on the Tribal Brownfields Forum, providing representation on the Tribal Brownfields Working Group, partnering on projects, and assisting with pilot studies of new cleanup approaches with tribes. A potential collaborative project is developing clean-up standards based on TEK.
- José asked whether Blase is aware of any case studies that incorporate TEK. Blasé responded that he has noticed increasing mentions of TEK at conferences, including discussions about addressing subsistence and other cultural concerns during cleanup. José would like to be able to highlight on-the-ground examples if they exist. During the call, Carley sent to the TSC members a 2016 memorandum about solid waste and emergency TEK clean-up strategies. She will explore this issue further for José.
- Alexa Olson asked whether drones can be funded under the Brownfields Program or another funding source is needed. Blase responded that tribes have been able to obtain funding from the Brownfields Program for inexpensive drones and funding from other sources for more expensive drones. Some land-grant universities have shared their drone resources through no-cost agreements.
- In response to a question from Lon Kissinger, Blase explained that the state of Washington site that he had referred to in his presentation was the Midnite Mine site.
- Luke Hullinger asked whether the majority of the Brownfields sites are former mining operations. Blase responded that some are, but most are former industrial sites. In his experience, most Brownfields sites that affect tribes are former mining sites. He asked whether KSU has national information. Blase responded that the TAB Program works with tribes all over the country and has national information. TRPs generally are concerned with managing and restoring affected natural and cultural resources, which include a large amount of acreage.
- In response to a request from Rebecca Jamison, Monica will send the link to access Blase's presentation to the TSC members.

Round Robin and Announcements

- Craig introduced himself as the new Region 6 Tribal Representative and explained that he also serves on the National Tribal Air Association. He attended the recent National Tribal Forum on Air Quality hosted by the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians in Temecula, California, and he heard presentations on climate change, ambient air monitoring, indoor air quality, policy-related work and the Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center. Craig is exploring the use of two different Teledyne particulate matter monitors and, thus far, has obtained similar data from both monitors. He also is investigating the performance of low-cost air sensors co-located with regulatory monitors. The Quapaw Tribe is taking the lead on management of the Tar Creek Superfund site, including modeling of risk from lead exposure. In response to a request from Monica, Craig agreed to send the State-of-the-Air Report to the TSC members. José noted that ORD is working on models to better understand drivers for blood lead levels beyond the obvious drivers.
- Amber Tilley explained that Region 7 is updating its memorandum of understanding with Haskell Indian Nations University and exploring potential partnership projects to be included.

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- Karen Hamernik explained that her office has made progress in developing a susceptible populations section, which includes tribal populations, for the *Guidelines for Human Exposure Assessment*, which is nearing a final draft.
- Beth Jackson stated that the annual Tribal Exchange Network conference was affected by the government shutdown. The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals is developing a skills training or summit, which likely will be held out West in November 2019. Beth will ensure that the TSC members receive information about the event when it becomes available.

Next TSC Teleconference

- The next TSC teleconference will be held on June 17, 2019, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. EDT.